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INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL MEDICINE
10. PARKS ROAD, OXFORD.

COUNTY OF LINLITHGOW

REPORT

By The

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year, 1920.

To The County Council and District Committees

of the County of Linlithgow.

Gentlemen,

I submit to you a Report on the health of the County during the year 1920.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Alex Robb

County Rooms,
Edinburgh. July, 1921.

COUNTY OF LINLITHGOW.

Report by the Medical Officer of Health for the Year, 1920.

C O U N T Y.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Estimated Population	51,635	
Number of Births	1,710	
Birth Rate	33.1	per 1,000 of population.
Number of Deaths	573	
Death Rate	11.1	per 1,000 do.
Number of Deaths under 1 Year	140	
Infantile Mortality Rate	82	per 1,000 births
Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	18	
" " Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	21	
" " Measles	7	
" " Diphtheria	4	
" " Whooping Cough	4	
" " Scarlet Fever	3	

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following table shows the number of cases of Infectious Disease notified and the number removed to Hospital during the year/

year.

	Notified	Removed to Hospital.
Enteric Fever	3	3
Scarlet Fever	307	232
Diphtheria	119	90
Erysipelas	34	-
Chickenpox	157	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	6	-
Malaria	3	-
Acute Primary Pneumonia	34	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	61	34
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	41	24

Owing to the occurrence of Smallpox in Glasgow and elsewhere it was decided to offer free vaccination and re-vaccination to all the inhabitants. Including insured persons who did not come under the offer of the Local Authorities, the number vaccinated amounted to over 4,500 in Bathgate District and nearly 2,000 in Linlithgow District.

Chickenpox

Chickenpox was made temporarily notifiable in order to lessen the risk of a mild case of Smallpox escaping recognition.

Many cases of Chickenpox showing unusual features were visited and examined as were many contacts with cases of Smallpox in Glasgow and elsewhere.

Tuberculosis/

Tuberculosis

A report on the needs of the County in regard to the treatment of Tuberculosis was submitted to the Council towards the end of the year.

As regards the provision of an Institution for the treatment of Tuberculosis for the South Eastern Counties Combination, negotiations were being carried out for the acquisition of part of the site, with buildings thereon, of East Fortune Airship Station in the County of Haddington.

Schools

Visits were made to schools chiefly in connection with the occurrence of Infectious Disease among the Scholars.

Milk Supply

No complaints were received regarding the wholesomeness of the milk produced or imported into the County, nor were any instances of scarcity reported.

Owing to the occurrence of a group of cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis in a village, enquiry was made into the milk supply. Bacteriological examinations were made but with negative results.

Venereal Diseases

The facilities made available for the treatment of persons suffering from these Diseases were detailed in the last report.

Information regarding these facilities was sent to every medical practitioner and was published throughout the/

the County by means of posters and newspaper advertisement.

That advantage is being taken of the means provided may be judged by the large number of visits for treatment which have been made by patients to the Clinic in the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh.

Rivers Pollution Prevention Acts.

No action was taken under these Acts.

B A T H G A T E D I S T R I C T.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Estimated Population	35,377	
Number of Births	1,240	
Birth Rate	35.1	per 1,000 of population.
Number of Deaths	408	
Death Rate	11.5	per 1,000 "
Number of Deaths under 1 Year	106	
Infantile Mortality Rate	85	per 1,000 births.
Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	11	
" " Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	19	
" " Measles	1	
" " Scarlet Fever	0	
" " Diphtheria	0	
" " Whooping Cough	1	
" " Cancer	34	
" " Heart Disease	93	
" " Pneumonia	31	
" " Bronchitis	32	
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 Years)	13	
" " Other Digestive Diseases	25	
" " Premature Birth, etc.,	43	
" " Violence	30	
" " All other causes	122	

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the number of cases of Infectious Disease notified and the number removed to Hospital/

hospital during the year.

	Notified	Removed to hospital.
Enteric Fever	1	1
Scarlet Fever	236	179
Diphtheria	60	55
Erysipelas	16	-
Chickenpox	137	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	-
Malaria	3	-
Pneumonia	19	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	33	18
Non Pulmonary Tuberculosis	32	18

Scarlet Fever

Cases notified 236; Deaths 2.

The disease was prevalent throughout the year and in all parts of the District. It was generally speaking of a mild type.

Diphtheria

Cases notified - 60; Deaths - 2.

The prevalence of the disease which increased in the preceding year continued during the year under review. All parts of the district were affected.

The four cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum which were reported recovered without any damage to eyesight.

Hospitals

There were admitted to Tipperhill hospital 179 cases of Scarlet Fever, 55 of Diphtheria and 1 of Enteric Fever. There were 2 deaths from Scarlet Fever and 1 from Diphtheria./

Diphtheria.

At Bruntsfield Hospital 40 patients suffering from Scarlet Fever were under treatment.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis

There were 38 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis reported. Of these 31 received treatment in a Sanatorium - most in Tipperlinn. Four cases notified in the preceding year were also sent to a Sanatorium. One patient was given domiciliary treatment.

Six patients were treated in Tipperlinn although they were not notified as suffering definitely from Tuberculosis.

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis

38 cases were reported; 10 of these received treatment (mainly surgical) in Edinburgh Institutions.

As a result of a survey made by the Tuberculosis Officer (Dr Macpherson) of all cases on the books, many names were struck off. These were working and had not been seriously ailing for a year. The numbers left were 67 suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis only, 24 from some forms of non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 5 suffering from both Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Notification of Births (Extension) Act.

The scheme of Maternity Service and Child Welfare is in operation.

As regards the notification of births this is being satisfactorily carried out.

Midwives Act

There/

Midwives Act

There were on the register 40 Midwives who had notified their intention to practise. Of the 1,260 births registered, 331 or 31.3 per cent were attended by Midwives only and 309 births were attended by them under the supervision of a doctor.

One Midwife who had been reported to the Central Midwives Board for not obeying their rules was suspended for three months from practice.

Housing

During the year plans were passed for:-

112 houses of 3 apartments with scullery and w.c.,
60 " " 4 " " " " " larder, etc
17 " " 5 " " " " " " "
1 house " 6 " " " " " " "
8 houses " 8 " " " " " " "

Up to the end of the year 89 houses were completed and occupied.

Improvements are being carried out in many places. During the year 32 dry closets or privies were replaced by 206 water closets. Sculleries were also added and water laid on to each house in Stoneyburn Row and Peat Whitburn, and the dry closets and ashpits removed.

As regards Nuisances, no certificates were required.

The/

The Slaughter-houses were found generally to be kept in good order.

Under the Factory & Workshop Act, 53 inspections were made. Four notices were served regarding want of cleanliness. The defects were remedied.

L I N L I T H G O W D I S T R I C T.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Estimated Population	16,258	
Number of Births	470	
Birth Rate	28.9	per 1,000 of population.
Number of Deaths	165	
Death Rate	10.1	per 1,000 do.
Number of Deaths under 1 Year	34	
Infantile Mortality Rate	72	per 1,000 Births
Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	7	
" " Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	
" " Whooping Cough	3	
" " Diphtheria	2	
" " Scarlet Fever	1	
" " Measles	1	
" " Cancer	14	
" " Heart Disease	17	
" " Bronchitis	12	
" " Pneumonia	20	
" " Premature Birth etc.,	12	
" " Violence	11	
" " Other Diseases	63	

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following table shows the number of cases of Infectious Disease notified and the number removed to Hospital during/

during the year:-

	Notified	Removed to Hospital.
Enteric Fever	2	2
Scarlet Fever	69	60
Diphtheria	39	35
Erysipelas	8	-
Measles	25	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	-
Acute Primary Pneumonia	15	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	23	16
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	9	6

With regard to the prevalence of these Diseases there is nothing of importance to note.

The two cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum recovered without any damage to eye-sight.

Hospitals

The needs of the District are supplied by the ~~Main~~ Hospital at Linlithgow and by the small Hospital at Dalkeith. A few cases were admitted to Bo'ness Burgh Hospital.

During the year 60 cases of Scarlet Fever, 35 of Diphtheria and 2 of Enteric Fever were treated in Hospital.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis

Twenty three cases were notified and 16 received treatment in a Sanatorium. One of these was notified the preceding year. One patient received domiciliary treatment.

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis/

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis

Of the 2 cases reported 6 received treatment in Edinburgh Institutions.

Notification of Births(Extension) Act.

There is no scheme of Maternity Service and Child Welfare in operation.

As regards the notification of births this is being carried out satisfactorily.

Midwives Act

There were on the Register 6 Midwives who had given notice of their intention to practise in the District.

Of the 470 births registered 30 were attended by Midwives only and 41 were attended by Midwives under the supervision of a doctor.

One Midwife was cautioned to be more careful in carrying out the rules of the Central Midwives Board.

Housing

There is no scheme for the erection of houses for the working classes.

A very few cottages were built during the year.

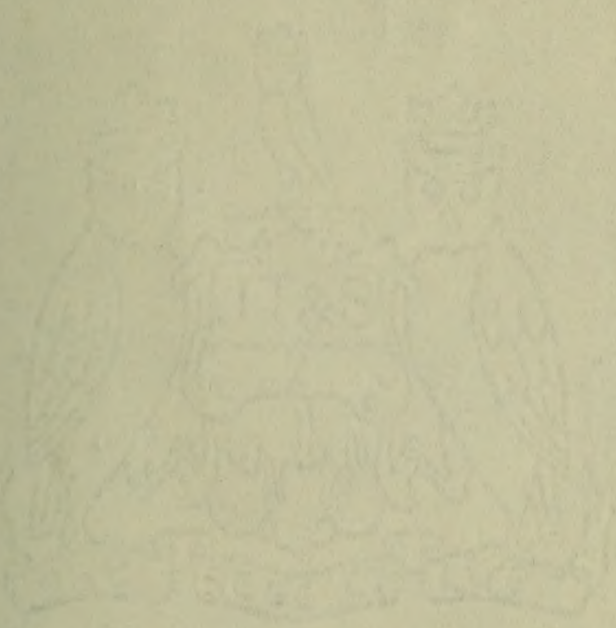
As regards Tuberges no certificates were required.

The Slaughter-house at Winchburgh was found satisfactory.

A/

A nuisance was complained of caused by untreated effluent from the Glue Works near Linlithgow passing into a stream.

The nuisance was removed.

Factory & Workshop Act

Fifty inspections were made of the Workshops registered. Seven notices were sent regarding defects found. These defects were remedied.